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MAP NOTICE.

Hermann Berghaus: Chart of the world on Mercator's projection entirely reconstructed by Hermann Habenicht (for the sea) and Bruno Domann (for the land). Gotha. Justus Perthes. XIIth Edition, 1897.

Size $37\frac{1}{2} \times 60\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 4 sheets. Colored. Engraved on copper. Scale (at the equator) about 430 statute miles to one inch. Price—in 4 sheets—unmounted, 14 marks.

More than a third of a century has now elapsed since the well-known geographic establishment of Justus Perthes in Gotha published a map of the world, compiled by Hermann Berghaus. This map has always and deservedly held a high place in the esteem of the public. It possesses in large measure those qualities which have won for the Germans an enviable reputation as map makers. Clearness, fidelity in detail, accuracy, harmonious coloring and a judicious selection of facts and features to be shown—these are the qualities we look for and find in the best maps.

This 12th edition differs materially from its predecessors. It is no longer the map of Berghaus—save in name—for so complete has been its revision and alteration by Messrs. Habenicht and Domann that, says the publisher, “In this 12th edition he offers a completely new work, for the corrections which the copper-plates have undergone are so numerous that they can indeed be called entirely New.” Under these circumstances it would seem that we no longer have the Berghaus map, but rather the Habenicht and Domann map.

These authors emphasize on the map and in the accompanying advertisement the commercial routes of the world. Thus, over the great oceans, various colored lines are shown, marked by figures and letters, which are explained at length in a legend “separately printed” on the face of the map, and which after the manner of a pilot chart is to be corrected as changes occur. These lines show the ocean highways.

Oceanic currents were formerly shown by continuous lines with an occasional arrow. The new chart abandons the lines and substitutes a very large number of arrows, a change which to us does not appear to be an improvement. The soundings which we knew on the old edition we miss from the new. The variation of the com-

pass, which was in the old map shown on an *inset*, is on the new one shown by lines printed over the whole map, and this is unequally done. In the United States, for example, the lines showing easterly variation are given, while those showing westerly variation are omitted.

On the old map of Berghaus there were 32 insets showing important places on an enlarged scale. The new map has only three insets.

The recently created political divisions of the Dominion of Canada appear on the map, and the compilers call attention to this in their prospectus, as also to boundaries generally. They say, "quite recently numerous questions connected with boundaries have arisen, and the results have been shown in the map just before its being sent to press." Looking at the boundaries that have recently been of interest to Americans we find, as to Alaska-Canada, a boundary line published in 1884, and which, according to Government publications, is not now claimed or accepted by either Canada or the United States. The boundary is shown in Behm Canal instead of in Portland Canal, and puts a United States Custom House, United States Post Office and an United States Indian reservation in Canadian territory. Again, the Venezuelan-British Guiana boundary line, so long in dispute, is given without any indication of its uncertainty. As to Trinidad Island, off the coast of Brazil, it is indicated as British, but an over print by way of correction indicates that it belongs to Brazil.

Shasta is called a mountain and Rainier a volcano. The Arctic Circle is spelled *Cercle*, Topeka is spelled *Topeca*, and Mellish Bank in the North Pacific appears as *Mellish Bay*.

The very excellence of the map as a whole is our apology for pointing out these blemishes, which for the most part are easily corrected.

The explanation of symbols and abbreviations is given with a fulness that indicates an intention to be complete. It is explained, for example, that B=Bay, Bight, C=Cape, I=Island, L=Lake, etc., facts that seem sufficiently obvious without explanation. So also the "Date Boundary" in the Pacific Ocean has this phrase printed three times along its course, and yet it also is explained in the legend, though the explanation adds nothing whatsoever in addition to what appears on the face of the map.

There are numerous details, about a map so filled with detail, as to which the makers and users of maps would not agree. The only general remark I would make as to this is that all additions are not

improvements. There is danger of overloading to the loss of clearness. The best map results, in this regard, from a wise choice of what to omit. The Berghaus map came near the ideal in this regard, and when the blemishes incident to this new map of Habenicht and Domann have been removed it will stand on a level with the old Berghaus map, easily one of, if not *the* best general map of the world.

M. B.